

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending when last examined. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Memida (USPN 6,137,360). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites *inter alia*, “a first transistor having a gate, a source, and a drain, wherein the source of the first transistor is connected to the input terminal.” Memida does not disclose, teach, or suggest such limitation.

The Examiner asserts that transistor P101 in FIG. 13 of Memida satisfies this limitation. In particular, the Examiner states, “Regarding claim 1, figure 13 of Memida shows...a first transistor (P101) having a gate, a source, and a drain, wherein the source of the first transistor is connected to the input terminal (IN1).” Applicants respectfully disagree.

In FIG. 13 of Memida, the source of the transistor P101 is not connected to the input terminal IN1. Indeed, because the input terminal IN1 in FIG. 13 of Memida is only connected to the gate of a transistor N111 and no other part of the circuit, the input terminal IN1 is electrically isolated from the transistor P101. As such, Memida does not anticipate Applicants’ invention recited in Claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed.

Claim 17 recites *inter alia*, “A buffer circuit comprising... at most three transistors operable to provide signal currents, wherein two of the three transistors are matched.” Memida does not disclose, teach, or suggest this.

According to the Examiner, “Memida shows a buffer circuit comprising...at most three transistors (P101, P102, P131) operable to provide signal currents, wherein two of the three transistors are matched (N111, N112).” Clearly, the Examiner’s position fails on its own.

First, the Examiner identifies five transistors—P101, P102, P131, N111, and N112. These five transistors cannot be the “at most three transistors operable to provide signal currents” as recited in Claim 17.

Second, the language of Claim 17 requires that the two transistors which are matched be from the “at most three transistors operable to provide signal currents.” In rejecting Claim 17, the Examiner has identified a first group of transistors—P101, P102, P131—as the three transistors operable to provide signal currents. And the Examiner has identified another group of transistors—N111, N112—as the two transistors which are matched. There is no overlap between the first and second groups of transistors identified by the Examiner. This is clearly not the same what is required of Claim 17—namely, “at most three transistors operable to provide signal currents, wherein two of the three transistors are matched.”

As such, Memida does not anticipate Applicants’ invention recited in Claim 17.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s allowance of Claims 10-16.

The Examiner objected to Claims 2-9 and 18-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Claims 1 and 17, from which Claims 2-9 and 18-20 depend, are in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to these dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

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Respectfully submitted,

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